

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02
AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04
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FROM AMB. WELLS TO IO: MR. MAYNES AND MR. FRANK

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, UNDP, UN
SUBJECT: 24TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: AGENDA ITEM 4: NEGOTIA-
TIONS ON DRAFT DECISION ON UNDP'S ROLE AND ACTIVITIES

REF: GENEVA 5056

1. SUMMARY: GOVERNING COUNCIL PRESIDENT KAUFMANN CON-
VENED INFORMAL WORKING GROUP JUNE 23 TO DISCUSS WHETHER
MEMBERS WISHED TO TAKE ANY DECISION AT ALL ON AGENDA
ITEM 4 (UNDP'S ROLE AND ACTIVITIES), AND, IF SO, IF THE
SECRETARIAT'S NON-PAPER (REFTEL), WOULD SERVE AS THE
BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS. AFTER A DRAWN-OUT PROCEDURAL
DEBATE, THE WORKING GROUP DECIDED TO PURSUE A SOMEWHAT
ETAILED DECISION, AND TO RECONVENE ON MONDAY, JUNE 27,
BY WHICH TIME DELS COULD SUBMIT AMENDMENTS TO SECRETARIAT
NON-PAPER. END SUMMARY.

2. USDEL (KITCHEN) OPENED DISCUSSIONS BY NOTING THAT
BOTH ECOSOC RES. 2024 (LXI) AND UNGA RES 31/171 (XXI)
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CALLED ON UNDP TO PRESENT NEXT ECOSOC WITH REPORT
ON STRENGTHENING COORDINATION AT HEADDEQUARTERS AND
IN THE FIELD. GIVEN THIS FACT, THAT GC WOULD BE
FACED WITH CONSIDERATION OF IMPORTANT REPORT IN
ANY CASE, IT SEEMED APPROPRIATE TO USDEL TO CONSIDER
THIS SUBJECT TOGETHER WITH A BROAD VIEW OF AGENDA
ITEM 4.

3. IN ENSUING DEBATE, A NUMBER OF LINES OF ARGUMENTATION WERE JOINED BY DELEGATIONS. (A) FRANCE, GUYANA, UNITED KINGDOM, IRAN, AND USSR ARGUED AGAINST A COMPREHENSIVE DECISION AT THIS GOVERNING COUNCIL.

INSTEAD THEY FAVORED PUSHING THE DEBATE ALONG THROUGH ECOSOC OR THE COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING, WHICH WERE SEEN AS MORE APPROPRIATE FORA FOR DECISIONS OF THIS SIGNIFICANCE. (B) SWEDEN, BRAZIL, GUINEA, AUSTRIA, FINLAND AND ARGENTINA ARGUED, IN VARIOUS FORMS, FOR A BIFURCATED DECISION, I.E., TO EXTRACT ELEMENTS WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND TO PUSH THROUGH TO ECOSOC THE MORE FAR-REACHING ISSUES.

(D) THE WORLD BANK, ON BEHALF OF THE AGENCIES, ARGUED FOR A DECISION WITHOUT SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR AND WHICH WOULD MERELY ENCOURAGE FURTHER DIALOGUE BETWEEN UNDP AND THE AGENCIES.

(D) SUPPORTING THE US IDEAS, IN VARIOUS WAYS, WERE SRI LANKA, PAKISTAN (STATEMENT BY VICE PRESIDENT MALIK) AND JAPAN.

4. MOMENTUM IN THE DEBATE GATHERED STEADILY FOR SOME SORT OF BIFURCATED DECISION UNTIL USDEL -- AT UNCLASSIFIED

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CRITICAL POINT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER HARD-LINE POSITION OF THE AGENCIES WAS UNVEILED -- INTERVENED FOR THIRD TIME AND ADMONISHED COUNCIL TO "FISH OR CUT BAIT", I.E., EITHER TO EXERCISE ITS DUTY IN PROVIDING ONGOING GUIDELINES ON THE ACTIVITIES AND ROLE OF UNDP OR TO RELINQUISH EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THE PROGRAM. AFTER GAUNTLET HAD THUS BEEN THROWN DOWN, FRANCE IMMEDIATELY REVERSED POSITION, DECIDING TO TAKE ITS FIGHT TO THE SUBSTANCE OF A DECISION, RATHER THAN CONTINUING AN EFFORT PROCEDURALLY TO BLOCK ANY DECISION.

5. ADMINISTRATOR MORSE, IN SHORT INTERVENTION, AGREED THAT COUNCIL HAD TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES, EVEN WITHIN CONTEXT OF ONGOING DIALOGUE IN UN SYSTEM. HE ASKED FOR GUIDANCE ON MAJOR ISSUES OF DOCUMENT DP/261: UNDP'S ROLE IN SUBSTANCE, RESOURCES AND COORDINATION OF UN TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES.

6. KAUFMANN THEN DECIDED (WITH SOME DELICATE PRODDING) TO ALLOW DELEGATIONS TO SUBMIT AMENDMENTS TO SECRETARIAT NON-PAPER AND TO RECONVENE WORKING GROUP MONDAY,

JUNE 27, TO NEGOTIATE DRAFT DECISION. USDEL SUBMITTED AMENDMENTS, PER REFTEL, TO SECRETARIAT.

7. COMMENT: WE DECIDEDLY OUTFLANKED OPPOSITION TO COMPREHENSIVE DECISION AND THUS WON THIS ROUND OF WHAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE A LONG FIGHT. MOST TELLING ARGUMENT CONCERNED APPARENT UNWILLINGNESS OF GOVERNMENTS TO GIVE DIRECTION TO THE CENTRAL UN ORGAN FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION: JUXTAPOSITION OF UNDP'S REQUIREMENT TO REPORT TO ECOSOC ON COORDINATION WITH PREVIOUSLY STRONG GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON ESTABLISHING LONG-RANGE GUIDELINES FOR THE PROGRAM (E.G. AS IN THE 1970 CONSENSUS) PROVED TOO STRONG AN ARGUMENT FOR OPPONENTS OF DECISION ON ITEM 4.
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8. SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS NEXT WEEK, HOWEVER, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECT DIVISION OF OPINION EXPRESSED TODAY, WITH SOME GOVERNMENTS (BRAZIL, FRANCE) PROPOSING A MUCH LESS COMPREHENSIVE DECISION THAN PRESENTLY ON THE TABLE. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WITHIN PARAMETERS OF GILLIGAN SPEECH, WE CAN STEER DECISION (OR MULTIPLE DECISIONS) ALONG LINES OF REFTEL. KEY INDICATOR MAY BE POSITIVE ATTITUDES OF MANY DELEGATIONS TO STRONG US LEADERSHIP ROLE BEGUN TODAY. END COMMENT. SORENSON

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